Sri Venkataramana Temple, Katapady, Udupi, Karnataka

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Info is given under following headings: Location, address, phone number...etc., how to get there, greatness of this temple, architecture, Main deity here and subdeities, daily poojas and rituals and their charges, special poojas, sevas and their charges, festivals, facilities for devotees such as accommodation etc,, donation info, bank acct numbers etc.., nearby Temples, nearby places of tourist interest, nearby budget hotels, .any other info...etc

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Sri Venkataramana Temple, Katapady (also known as Shri Venkataramana Temple, Katapadi or Bandhanapura Venkataramana Temple) is a prominent Hindu temple in coastal Karnataka, dedicated to Lord Venkataramana (a form of Lord Vishnu, similar to Venkateswara of Tirupati).

It is a revered Kuladevata (family deity) shrine for the Goud Saraswat Brahmin (GSB) community and follows Vaishnava traditions with a strong emphasis on devotion, community gatherings, and festivals.

The temple is known for its beautiful renovations, grand chariot festivals (Rathotsava/Teru), and vibrant celebrations like Brahmarathotsava and Okkuli (color festival).

Location

The temple is situated in Katapady (Katapadi) village, Udupi Taluk, Udupi district, Karnataka, India.

It lies close to NH 66 (Mangalore-Udupi-Goa highway), making it easily accessible.

Katapady is about 15–18 km north of Udupi city, near Udupi-Manipal-Katapady route, in a serene rural-coastal area.

PIN: 574106 (Katapady post).

The temple is often referred to in community contexts as part of the Bandhanapura area or local GSB heritage sites.

History and Legend

The temple is a typical GSB community temple, renovated in 2015 (modern structure with traditional elements).
It belongs to the Gaud Saraswat Brahmin samaj, who migrated to coastal Karnataka (Tulu Nadu) centuries ago, often from Goa or other regions due to historical events.

Specific legends are not widely documented in public sources (unlike larger Tirupati or Karkala Venkataramana temples), but it follows Vaishnava worship patterns similar to Tirupati-style Venkateswara temples.

Devotees view it as a local abode of Lord Venkataramana for blessings of prosperity, protection, and family well-being.

The temple gained prominence through community events like Rathotsava and is managed by local GSB trust/committee.

Architecture

Renovated in 2015 with a blend of traditional coastal Karnataka style and modern features: Grand entrance, pillared mandapa, and sanctum.

Attractive gopuram/tower and spacious courtyard for festivals.

Suitable for large gatherings, chariot processions, and community rituals.

Other Deities

Primarily dedicated to Lord Venkataramana (Vishnu in standing form with Lakshmi).

Sub-shrines may include typical Vaishnava deities like Garuda, Hanuman, or others common in GSB temples (exact details limited; focus is on main deity).

Temple Timings

As a community-managed temple, timings are flexible and devotion-focused (no strict official online listing found; typical for such shrines):

Morning: Around 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM (or till afternoon pooja).

Evening: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM (or sunset).

Special openings during festivals/utsavas. Confirm locally or via community contacts, as timings vary on auspicious days.

Key Features and Beliefs

Revered by GSB families for Kuladevata worship, family harmony, success, and fulfillment of vows.

Famous for grand Brahmarathotsava / Rathotsava (chariot festival), often in January (e.g., 2026 Rathotsava from 22–28 January with 7-day celebrations, chariot processions, Okkuli/color festival).

Community practices: Annaprasadam, bhajans, group rituals during festivals.

Peaceful, welcoming vibe; promotes equality and devotion.

How to Visit

By Road: On/near NH 66; frequent buses/autos from Udupi (15–18 km) or Manipal. Easy access via private vehicles.

By Rail: Udupi Railway Station (~15 km).

By Air: Mangalore International Airport (~60 km).

Best time: October–March; January for Rathotsava (major event with colorful processions, Mrigabete utsava, etc.).

Accommodation: Limited in Katapady (basic homestays/lodges); better in Udupi (hotels, guest houses) or Manipal.

This temple embodies GSB cultural heritage in Tulu Nadu — a peaceful spot for darshan and community festivals.

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Daily Poojas and Rituals and Their Charges

As a community-managed GSB temple, daily poojas follow traditional Vaishnava patterns but are not extensively listed online with exact charges (unlike larger temples like Mangalore or Karkala Venkataramana).

Typical schedule (approximate; confirm via local contacts or community):

Morning: Suprabhatam/Opening ~6:00 AM, followed by Nitya Pooja, Abhishekam, Alankara, and Naivedya.

Midday: Madhyahna Pooja ~12:00–1:00 PM.

Evening: Ratri Pooja/Aarti ~7:00–8:00 PM, Bhajans, and closing.

General darshan is free; special archana/kumkumarchana or small offerings are donation-based or nominal (₹50–₹200 range, similar to other GSB temples).

No fixed public sevas list found; many rituals are community/group-based.

Contact the temple committee for exact daily charges (often modest or voluntary).

Special Poojas, Sevas, and Their Charges

Special sevas are offered during festivals or on request, typically donation-based or nominal for GSB temples:

Rathotsava-related sevas (e.g., chariot decoration, pulling, annadana sponsorship) — vary by event; often community contributions.

Kalyanotsavam or Abhishekam — similar to other Venkataramana temples (~₹500–₹2000 per couple/family).

Archana, Sahasranama Parayana, Naivedya — ₹100–₹500.

Okkuli (color festival) or festival sponsorships — voluntary donations.

Charges are not publicly fixed; many are free for Kulavis or donation-oriented.

No detailed official sevas list online — inquire via local GSB contacts or temple committee.

Festivals

Brahmarathotsava / Rathotsava — Major annual chariot festival (e.g., 22–28 January 2026 with 7 days of celebrations, Dhwajarohana, Mrugayanotsava, Yakshagana Seva, Avabratha Utsava, and grand chariot processions).

Okkuli (color festival) — Vibrant during Rathotsava.

Other: Ramanavami, Krishna Janmashtami, Ekadashi, and GSB-specific community events.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

Limited on-site facilities (basic rooms or community hall for pilgrims during festivals).

Annaprasadam (free community meals) during major events like Rathotsava.

Better accommodation in Udupi city (15–18 km away): hotels, guest houses, or GSB community stays.

No advance online booking widely available; first-come basis or contact temple committee.

Donation Info and Bank Account Numbers

Donations support temple maintenance, festivals, and community activities (voluntary, often via hundi or direct).

Cheque/DD: Payable to "Shri Venkataramana Temple, Katapady" or temple trust (confirm via committee).

No public bank account numbers listed online (common for smaller community temples to avoid misuse).

Contact temple committee or GSB samaj members for details (often local bank in Udupi/Katapady).

Donations are tax-exempt if eligible (check with committee).

Nearby Temples

- Sri Krishna Temple, Udupi (~15–18 km) — Famous Krishna Matha.
- Sri Anantheshwara Temple, Udupi.
- Sri Mahalingeshwara Temple (nearby areas).
- Other GSB temples in Udupi region (e.g., Kallianpur Venkataramana, Mulki Venkataramana).

Nearby Places of Tourist Interest

- Malpe Beach (~20–25 km) — Coastal beach with boat rides to St. Mary's Island.
- Kaup Beach (~30 km) — Lighthouse and scenic shore.
- Manipal (~10 km) — Educational hub with End Point view.
- Udupi Krishna Temple complex and nearby beaches.
- Pajaka (Adi Shankaracharya birthplace, ~25 km).

Nearby Budget Hotels

In Katapady/Manipal/Udupi area: Basic lodges/homestays (~₹800–2000/night).

Udupi options: Hotel Sri Krishna Residency, Hotel Udupi Residency, or pilgrim lodges near Krishna Temple.

Manipal: Budget hotels like Hotel Kediyoor or similar (~₹1000–2500).

Search platforms like MakeMyTrip/Goibibo for "Katapady Udupi budget hotels" (many under ₹1500).

Any Other Info

The temple is community-oriented — ideal for GSB families during life events or festivals.

Rathotsava attracts large crowds; plan visits accordingly.

Photography allowed in outer areas; respect inside rules.

Contact: Through local GSB networks or Instagram (@bandhanapuravasa) for updates (e.g., 2026 Rathotsava schedule).

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Ref: Google Gemini

The Sri Venkataramana Temple in Katapadi (near Udupi, Karnataka) is a revered spiritual landmark belonging to the Gowda Saraswat Brahmin (GSB) community.

It is often celebrated for its historical roots, vibrant festivals, and its status as a "mini-Tirupati" in the coastal region.

1. Key Highlights

* **The Deity**: The temple is dedicated to Lord Venkataramana (an incarnation of Lord Vishnu). The rituals performed here are closely aligned with those of the famous Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam.

* **Community**: It is one of the important temples for the GSB community, who migrated to coastal Karnataka centuries ago.

* **Location**: Situated in Katapadi, approximately 8-10 km from Udupi city, along the NH-66 highway.

2. Major Festivals

The temple is most famous for its grand celebrations, which draw thousands of devotees:

* **Katapadi Teru (Rathotsava):** This is the annual Car Festival held during January–February (usually on the auspicious day of Madhwanavami). It takes place two days after the famous Kodial Teru in Mangalore.

* **Laksha Deepotsava**: The festival of lights, where the entire temple premises are illuminated with thousands of oil lamps, creating a stunning visual experience.

3. Architecture & Atmosphere

* **Traditional Style**: The temple features classic coastal Karnataka architecture, characterized by intricate woodwork and silver-plated doors in the sanctum.

* **Spiritual Vibe:** Known for its peaceful and disciplined environment, the temple serves as a cultural hub for the local community, hosting various religious discourses and Vedic chants.

4. Visiting Information

* **Timings**: Generally open from 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM (timings may extend during festival days).
* **Dress Code**: Visitors are encouraged to wear traditional attire. Men are typically required to remove their shirts/vests before entering the inner sanctum (Garbhagudi).

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The Venkataramana Devastana in Katapadi is a prominent religious center for the Gowda Saraswat Brahmin (GSB) community, located just south of Udupi.

The Katapadi Teru Festival (Car Festival)

The annual Rathotsava (Car Festival) is the temple's most significant event. It traditionally occurs on Madhwanavami, which is the ninth day of the Shukla Paksha in the month of Magha.

* **2026 Estimated Date:** Based on the Hindu calendar, Madhwanavami falls on January 27, 2026.

* **Timing**: The main chariot pulling typically takes place two days after the famous "Kodial Teru" in Mangalore.

* **Highlights**: The festival features a grand procession where the deity is carried in a massive wooden chariot (Ratha), accompanied by traditional music, Vedic chants, and a large gathering of devotees.

Visiting the Temple

The temple is known for its peaceful, well-maintained premises and strict adherence to traditional Vedic rituals.

* **Atmosphere**: Reviewers frequently highlight the temple's "divine and serene" environment, noting that it feels like a smaller version of Tirupati due to the similarity in rituals.

* **Architectural Features**: The temple boasts a beautiful sanctum with silver-clad doors and intricate woodwork.

* **Daily Sevas**: Various sevas, including the Panchamrita Abhisheka and Rangapooja, are performed daily. Devotees often visit to partake in the afternoon Prasada Bhojana (community lunch), which is highly regarded for its quality.

Practical Information

* **Dress Code**: Traditional attire is expected. Men must remove their upper garments (shirts/vests) before entering the inner courtyard.

* **Temple Timings**: The temple is generally open for Darshan from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 5:30 PM to 8:15 PM daily.

The temple is easily accessible as it is located right on the NH-66 highway, making it a convenient stop for travelers moving between Mangalore and Udupi.

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Photos

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SRI VENKATARAMANA TEMPLE KATAPADI

@ Srinivas Kamath

Anirudha Kamath · 2 years ago
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Videos

Katapady Sri Venkataramana Temple (30 min):

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17Cx94QaMG/

Okuli utsava 3022 (26 min):https://youtu.be/S9bWwvbOb_4?si=Jxkd-uoomKXrT1pk

Rathotsava 2022 (12 min):https://youtu.be/B2KShsaEftE?si=1G6EaD_IeVDSMsLv

Katapady Sri Venkataramana Temple (30 min):

https://youtu.be/nu7BmR5T4VA?si=AMPaPYOWkx7p_ZdO

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
January 30, 2026
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